



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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NEWS RELEASE

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Anthrax has again appeared in South Dakota livestock. Dr. Sam Holland, State Veterinarian, reports the disease has struck a cattle herd in Brown County.

Specimens were collected Monday, April 23rd, and taken to the state veterinary diagnostic lab, which confirmed the diagnosis on Wednesday, April 25th.

Dr. Holland reports the case involves a pasture containing a group of approximately (50) head of cattle. This herd experienced anthrax in 2005 and while the majority of the herd has been timely vaccinated, the one death occurred in a small group of (8) replacement heifers which had not yet received vaccine.

The herd was scheduled to be immediately treated with antibiotics, vaccinated and carcasses properly disposed of under the supervision of the Animal Industry Board.

Anthrax is a very serious quarantinable disease because it can cause the rapid loss of a large number of animals in a very short time. Often times animals are found dead with no illness detected. Anthrax is also communicable to humans, as well as other animals, through carcasses so that strict enforcement of quarantine and proper burning and burying of carcasses suspected to have died from Anthrax is important. Anthrax is not usually spread from animal to animal and quarantines are imposed to prevent further soil contamination by movement of affected livestock.

Producers are alerted to outbreaks so they can consult their veterinarians and vaccinate their livestock if deemed appropriate.

Dr. Holland reports that Anthrax spores survive in contaminated soil indefinitely and that much of South Dakota has the potential of experiencing an outbreak.

Significant climate changes such as drought, floods, and winds can expose Anthrax spores to grazing livestock. Alkaline soils, high humidity and high temperatures present conditions for the Anthrax spores to vegetate and become infectious to grazing livestock.

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